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Volume 2
Number 6

EX LIBRIS

MARCH
— 1925 —

The American Novel of Democracy

(The Editors are indebted to the *Christian Science Monitor* for permission to reprint this article from its issue of February 3, 1925.)

TO the most casual onlooker it must be apparent that the present-day effort to fashion a true picture of the United States through the medium of fiction is one of the outstanding and encouraging signs on the American literary horizon. Of excess, bizarrerie, and vulgarity we witness a plenty. Of the hasty and transient, an inevitable superfluity. But the amount of sincere and illuminating interpretation, however much we may find ourselves at odds with point of view or method, is impressive, and of happy augury for the future of American fiction.

As a matter of fact, a survey of our previous activity in this type of literature discloses a more independent and a more continuous tradition than our history can show in either poetry or the drama. The American scene, I have come to believe, has inspired more consistently original and characteristic reflection of itself in the novel than in any other form of letters. This judgment, be it understood, applies to the continuous effort to grapple concretely, in the experimental form which is fiction's special advantage, with the peculiar conditions arising on American soil under the unique system of political democracy.

* * *

Two methods of passing in review the significant examples of this fiction are equally valuable. We can, of course, survey it chronologically in order of composition; or we can arrange the novels in the order of the times portrayed, regardless of the date of their authorship. Were we, for instance, assembling lists of titles according to the latter classification we should immediately recall the many stories of the Colonial period: "To Have and To Hold", "Prisoners of Hope", both by Mary Johnston, and "The Cavaliers of Virginia" by W. A. Carruthers, as examples of portrayals of the life of Virginia; "Standish of Standish" by Jane Austen, "The Coast of Freedom" by A. M. and A. J. Shaw, representing the life of Massachusetts; and so on for other states, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, the Carolinas, Georgia and the rest. We can discover by a minimum of effort at least one novel and often more for each one of the colonies at this period.

* * *

To every American reader will occur many novels of the periods of our history that follow: of the Revolution, of the building of the Nation, of the struggles over slavery and state's rights culminating in the conflict of 1861, and then of the reconstruction days, of rapid expansion which comprehended the conquest of the mighty west, on, through many phases of national growth, down to the present hour. In a half hour, by reference to guides to historical fiction and other compilations, one can visualize the story suggested by more than a hundred of these titles; or, better still, one can pass, as it has been my privilege recently, with lingering step, pausing with many an affectionate reminiscence, through the stacks of a great library, and pull down from their place three times that number of such novels. Many of them are deservedly forgotten and they are naturally of widely varying merit; but the historian of our spiritual development, as recorded in these historical imaginative reconstructions, will do well to turn back in faithful and intelligent and sympathetic examination of them. In good time, I devoutly hope, someone with the requisite devotion and enthusiasm will not only classify them in their entirety, but with judicious discrimination write their history as a magnificent

chapter of our literary chronicle. For as a supplement to the stirring pageant of our history they constitute a priceless record of the endeavor of the spirit of America to express itself year by year, in all the richness and fullness of this form.

* * *

This pageant of our national story begins formally in time with Hugh Brackenridge's "Modern Chivalry or the Adventures of Captain Farrago and Teague O'Regan," published in parts between 1792 and 1805, a sort of American Don Quixote and Hudibras, and hence a satire. Teague and his master, Captain Farrago, in adventurous fashion, travel about the country, entering eagerly into the novel political life of the newly-founded republic. By this means the author makes them lenses, as it were, through which we look upon the intimate nature of the great governmental experiment. The book is now forgotten, but for fifty years its influence was marked; in 1846 we find an editor of a new edition declaring of the author: "The aim of his writing was to raise the standard of democracy. . . . He believed that a popular work like the present was the best means of diffusing correct ideas of government. The satire is directed against ignorance and the presumption and arrogance of ignorance." This obviously was a novel with a dominating social purpose. And its moral preoccupation is a significant forecast of the motive which has animated its numerous successors.

Based upon a similar plan is "The History of the Female American or the Extraordinary Adventures of Unca Eliza Winkfield, Compiled by Herself," appearing first in 1814. It is surely no mere chance that these two early works should both disclose even in the title the prominent element of adventure in the life of the young nation. Six years after the latter novel our earliest professional fiction writer launched upon the world the first of a memorable series which was to establish a European fame for American story. This was "Precaution" of James Fenimore Cooper, to be followed soon by "The Spy" in 1821, "The Pioneers" and "The Pilot" in 1823, and his enduring work, "The Last of the Mohicans" in 1826. No American reader today needs a critic to tell him that these and a dozen more of Cooper's inaugurated a new type of American tale surcharged with the essential qualities of a new and hardy civilization, bringing order into the wilderness.

* * *

Of particular value at this period was the publication in three attractive volumes in London and Edinburgh of "Brother Jonathan," written by that versatile and indefatiguable pioneer of American culture, John Neal of Portland, Maine. He had gone to England a few years previously as an enthusiastic, self-appointed ambassador with what we should call today an international vision. Impressed with the necessity of explaining his country to the mother country, he poured forth a veritable flood of articles into the columns of British periodicals, and in 1825 culminated his valuable service by publishing this novel which visualizes the "brothers Jonathan" collectively. After a hundred years, which happily has not banished the book into oblivion, it stands as the first work of fiction inspired by the zealous desire to further the cause of Anglo-American amity.

Out of such beginnings has developed the American novel of democracy, flourishing more and more vigorously as it has spread into various forms. There is the historical interpretation which flowered in countless varieties particularly between 1896 and 1902, such as those of Winston Churchill, Owen Wister, Mary Johnston and other honorable names. There are the Utopian novels, "The Traveler from Altruria" (1894) by Howells, Bellamy's "Looking Backward" (1888) and the less-known "Equality" (1897), and Hawthorne's version of the community experiment in "The Blithedale Romance" (1852). There is the novel of the problem of the "melting-pot." There is the novel of the economic problems: Norris's "Octopus" and "The Pit," Alice French's "The Man of the Hour," and W. A. White's "A Certain Rich Man." There is the novel of manners shrewdly delineated, as by Howells, Irving Bacheller or Edith Wharton. And there is Mark Twain, spokesman of the Mississippi valley.

* * *

Towards this vast valley has the novel of democracy turned recently with irresistible urge. Our veteran, Hamlin Garland, has in the thirty-five years since he began to speak for the West given us a library of nearly as many volumes. He now writes in retrospect, but a group of

brilliant novelists has arisen almost over night, establishing itself within the short span of five years through searching, mature appraisals of the West of today. Such are Sinclair Lewis, Willa Cather and Edna Ferber, each attempting to make the valley of democracy yield up its essential character. No one can doubt the sincerity and the power of such artists, and they are all still on the rising tide of their powers. We do not lack fine current novels of eastern life, but in the work of these and others, the interpretation of the West seems at the moment to form the most coherent and impressive body of thoughtful fiction.

In the light of this sturdy and continuous tradition the immediate future of the novel of democracy in the United States seems very bright. Probably the nature of the type makes it a more promising medium of interpretation than either poetry or drama. I would not for a moment deprecate the latent possibilities of these latter forms or the promise shown in some contemporary work in those mediums. I am rather concerned with the recognition of this splendid achievement of American fiction in affording us such an ordered interpretation of our democracy.

P. K.

In a review in the *New Republic* of Fiske Kimball's "Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies" (Scribner's) Mr. Lewis Mumford says, "So far as I am aware this is the first book which has ever attempted to cover in a systematic fashion the whole field of early American house architecture."

May Sinclair is quoted in the *International Book Review* as saying to an interviewer, "You like 'Mary Olivier'; I am so pleased! It is my favorite. I consider it my best book, and doubt if I shall ever be able to improve on it. I dislike hearing people say, as they constantly do, that they prefer 'The Divine Fire' to any other book of mine."

The "Standard Catalog of Fiction", compiled by Corinne Bacon (H. W. Wilson Co), lists 2,350 of the best novels and stars 750 titles of the most important of these. It is fully annotated as well as indexed and should prove of the greatest use to readers who desire to discriminate in their reading as well as to librarians who are able to buy only the best.

Maxwell Bodenheim's "Crazy Man" is described by the *New York Book Review* as the best thing that Mr. Bodenheim has done.

The "Story of the Pan-American Union", by William A. Reid (Dorrance and Co.), describes in a brief and interesting manner the beginnings of Pan-Americanism, the building erected for the Union in Washington in 1910, its activities as publisher, bureau of information, etc. and its achievements.

Robert McElroy's life of Grover Cleveland (Harper) is described by the *Nation* as the best American historical biography of the year.

"The three greatest political novels in the English language", says the London *Nation*, "are beyond question, Trollope's 'Phineas Finn', 'Phineas Redux', and 'The Prime Minister'. Nowhere is the essential spirit of English parliamentary life in the Victorian Age so delicately and faithfully represented as in this great trilogy."

"The American Colonies in the 18th Century" by the late Professor Herbert L. Osgood (Columbia University Press, 2 volumes), is a continuation of the author's "The American Colonies in the 17th Century", for a generation recognised as the standard authority upon the subject. In the present volumes, the story, carried on to the year 1763, deals largely with the conflict between England and France consequent upon the accession of William of Orange to the British throne. In addition there are important chapters on British colonial government and commercial policy, piracy, relations with the Indians, and extension of the Church of England in the Colonies.

"Why did May Sinclair find it necessary to reconstruct and rewrite 'Mary Olivier', and in a far less effective manner?" John Farrar asks in a note on her last novel, "Arnold Waterlow". "The first part of the latter novel", he says, "is superb. The working of a child's mind, a sensitive child's mind, has never been better shown. Arnold is a mystic; and as a child mystic he is both believable and attractive. But when he becomes a man, it is a pity that he does not put off this mysticism or, better perhaps, this variety of mysticism."

Of Isabel Paterson's novel "The Singing Season" (Boni) the scene of which is laid in Spain in the 14th century, Gertrude Atherton writes, "This is one of the most remarkable pieces of literature—pure literature—this country has given birth to."

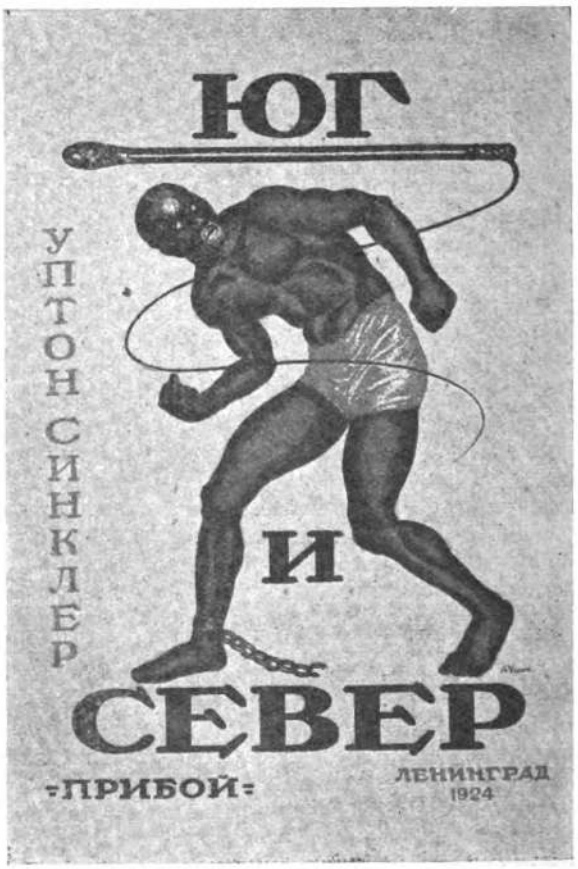
American Books in Soviet Russia

(The following information in regard to the importation of American books into Russia and in regard to Russian translations is from Mme. Haffkin Hamburger, principal of the Institute for Library Science in Moscow. — *Editor.*)

THE importation of foreign books into this country was renewed in 1920-1921. The libraries are still allowed to purchase foreign books only through a special commission of the Commissariat for Education, which has sent its agents abroad for this purpose. This method is so slow and unsatisfactory that librarians are asking to be allowed to make book purchases directly from dealers. The appropriations for the purchase of foreign books are not given to the libraries directly, but each of the large libraries is accredited with a given sum at the above-mentioned commission. Each library is required to send its desiderata to the Commissariat, where lists are compared, because the lack of means does not allow duplication of the same book and periodicals without restriction. The only exception is for libraries which are under other Commissariats than that of Education. These are better provided with foreign books; for instance technological libraries. They get books directly and more quickly.

American books did not arrive at all in the first years, but their number grows every year. Among recent publications we have one which shows clearly the character of recent additions, namely, the union list for 29 large scientific libraries of Leningrad, comprising the additions in foreign literature for 1920-1924. This is a modest list of 1821 entries, of which 162 or 9 % are American publications. Of these American publications 68 are in science, 66 in useful arts and 28 in sociology. This list can be considered as an average of *new* American books in libraries of this country. Another union list on cards, made by our Institute, viz. the "Union list of foreign periodicals in Moscow scientific libraries for 1924" gives the following figures: there are 245 American periodicals, the whole number of periodicals in 63 libraries, which have contributed to this union list, is 1750, thus the current American periodicals comprise 14 per cent.

There is only one book store for foreign literature, "The International Book Co." opened some two years ago, with branches in several large cities, and a few agencies, including one at the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, another at the Neophilogical library, and a third at the Commission of Relief for Scholars, where private people can purchase foreign books. The International Book Co. tells me that in 1924 they sold 300 American periodicals in 1,000 sets, and about 1,500 American books.

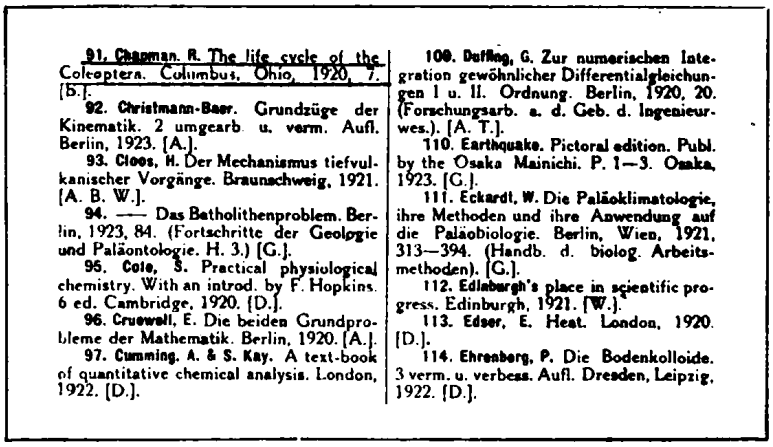


Facsimile of the Russian Translation of Upton Sinclair's "Manassa", entitled in the translation "South and North".

These are a few samples, showing that American books are again being read in this country. Before the War our libraries and particulars were well provided with American books.

Now the Smithsonian Institution has renewed the exchange between America and this country and all our institutions get a large number of parcels, some of them dating from 1914 and 1915, when international exchange was stopped. I got in this way three parcels, sent by different American libraries before America entered the War.

As to American books, translated into Russian, there have been a good many in recent years. Two authors the most advertised at present in our public libraries are American, John Reed's "Ten Days that Shook the World", and Upton Sinclair's novels, especially "Jimmy Higgins". O. Henry, Sinclair Lewis's "Babbitt", and Burrows' Tarzan books, as well as reprints of former translations of Jack London, Mark Twain, and Mrs. Stowe, come next in popularity. Among children's books, Guy Lofting's "Dr. Dolittle", and reprints of old favorites like Seton Thompson are most in demand. Among books of non-fiction the writings of John Dewey, Stanley Hall, S. C. Bryant, several books on the Dalton plan, and many books on useful arts have been translated.



91. Chapman, R. The life cycle of the Coleoptera. Columbus, Ohio, 1920, 7. [B.].
92. Christmann-Baer. Grundzüge der Kinematik. 2 umgearb. u. verm. Aufl. Berlin, 1923. [A.].
93. Cloos, H. Der Mechanismus tiefvulkanischer Vorgänge. Braunschweig, 1921. [A. B. W.].
94. —— Das Batholithenproblem. Berlin, 1923, 84. (Fortschritte der Geologie und Paläontologie. H. 3.) [G.].
95. Cole, S. Practical physiological chemistry. With an introd. by F. Hopkins. 6 ed. Cambridge, 1920. [D.].
96. Cruewell, E. Die beiden Grundprobleme der Mathematik. Berlin, 1920. [A.].
97. Cumming, A. & S. Kay. A text-book of quantitative chemical analysis. London, 1922. [D.].
100. Duffing, G. Zur numerischen Integration gewöhnlicher Differentialgleichungen 1 u. II. Ordnung. Berlin, 1920, 20. (Forschungsarb. a. d. Geb. d. Ingenieurwes.). [A. T.].
110. Earthquake. Pictoral edition. Publ. by the Osaka Mainichi. P. 1—3. Osaka, 1923. [G.].
111. Eckardt, W. Die Paläoklimatologie, ihre Methoden und ihre Anwendung auf die Paläobiologie. Berlin, Wien, 1921, 313—394. (Handb. d. biolog. Arbeitsmethoden). [G.].
112. Edinburgh's place in scientific progress. Edinburgh, 1921. [W.].
113. Edser, E. Heat. London, 1920. [D.].
114. Ehrenberg, P. Die Bodenkolloide. 3 verm. u. verbess. Aufl. Dresden, Leipzig, 1922. [D.].

FACSIMILE of Union List of books in foreign languages received in the libraries of Leningrad between 1920 and 1924. This facsimile shows with approximate accuracy the proportion of American, English, and German books.

An article on "Sheila Kaye-Smith: a Novelist of the Farm", by Andrew E. Malone, first published in the *Irish Statesman*, has been republished in the *Living Age*. In it Mr. Malone says, " 'The Promise of Sussex Gorse', 'The Challenge to Sirius', and 'Tamarisk" Town' was more than amply fulfilled in 'Joanna Godden', which placed Sheila Kaye-Smith first of the woman novelists, and among the greatest novelists of her time. She has made the country of Sussex what Thomas Hardy made of the Kingdom of Wessex."

The new quarterly review *Litteris*, published by the Society of Letters at Lund, Sweden, adopts the English language for editorial purposes on the ground that it is more generally understood in French or German speaking countries than French or German in the Anglo-Saxon world. It is devoted to reviews of important books in the humanities.

Hugh Walpole's "The Old Ladies" and Joseph Hergesheimer's "Balisand" are, in the opinion of John Farrar, the outstanding pieces of fiction of the year, and are the best novels which they have written.

Of "Henry Thoreau" by Léon Bazalgette (Rieder) translated by Van Wyck Brooks (Harcourt), a writer in the *Christian Science Monitor* says, "Our keenest feeling on reading it is of wonder that the book can be so good."

Mary Johnston's "The Slave Ship" (Little, Brown & Co.) is a story of life in colonial Virginia and the 18th century slave trade.

There is a selected list of books of travel in the Southern States by Miss Violet Kohler in the *Publisher's Weekly*, January 17.

The Macmillan Company's Contributions to French Studies

THE completion of the new building of the Macmillan Company in New York City presents a good opportunity for a review of its contributions to French studies. The following bibliographical notes will serve to show in some measure their extent and character.

Among historical works relating to France its publications include: "The Growth of the French Nation" by Professor George Burton Adams; "Saint Jeanne d'Arc; the mystical story of a girl of the people" by Minna Caroline Smith; "Jeanne d'Arc" by Percy Mackaye; "The French Monarchy, 1483-1789" by A. J. Grant; "Memoirs of the Duc de Lauzon, Armand de Gontaut-Biron, 1747-1783", "The Royal Family in the Temple Prison" by Jean Bapt.ste Cant Hanet Clery; "Lafayette" by Martha F. Crow; "In the footsteps of Napoleon" by James Morgan; "Memoirs relating to Fouche, Minister of Pol.ce under Napoleon I".

And for recent history: "The History of Modern France, 1815-1913", by E. Bourgeois; "Alsace-Lorraine since 1870" by Barry Cerf; "American Guide-book to France and its Battlefields" by E. B. Garey, O.O. Ellis, and R.V.D. Magoffin; "With the Doughboy in France", by Edward Hungerford; "American Red Cross Work among the French People" by Fisher Ames, jr., "A Jewish Chaplain in France", by Rabbi Lee J. Levinger; "Reconstruction in France" by William MacDonald; and "The House of the Good Neighbor" by Esther Pohl Lovejoy.

Among its publications on the history of literature are: "French Literature during the Last Half Century" by Professor J. W. Cunliffe and Pierre de Bacourt; and the "Journal of Marie Leneru", translated by William Aspenwall Bradley; and on the French language, "French Grammar for Colleges and Schools" by Professor Hugo P. Thieme and J. R. Effinger; "French Verbs and Verbal Idioms in Speech" by B. and E. J. Meras; a "First Book in French" and "French Dramatic Reader" both by Eugene F. Maloubier and Justin H. Moore; "French Conversation and Composition" by H. V. Wann; "Aid to French Pronunciation" by Edmund Tilly; a "First French Course" by Louis A. Roux; "Exercises Français", by M. S. Pargment, three parts supplemented by a reader entitled "La France et les Français"; "Contes du Pays de Merlin", by H. W. Van Buren; and a "Precis de l'Histoire de France" by Alcee Fortier.

Its French texts include "La Chanson de Roland", translated into modern French from T. Muller's text of the Oxford ms., edited by J. Geddes; and among its Pocket Classics, Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables", edited by D. G. Crawford, in addition to those in its French Series and in its Seipmann Series of French texts:

French Series.

ABOUT, EDMOND. Le Roi des Montagnes. Edited by F. B. Wilson.

DAUDET, ALPHONSE. Contes Choisies. Edited by W. D. Head.

FISH, LOUIS J. and D'AVESNE A. French Commercial Correspondence.

HEMON, LOUIS. Maria Chapdelaine. Recit du Canada Français. Edited by Hugo P. Thieme.

LABICHE, EUGÈNE. La Poudre aux Yeux. Edited by C. P. Lebon.

MÉRIMÉE, PROSPER. Colomba. Edited by Victor E. François.

MICHELET, MAGALI. Marraine de Guerre.

The Siepmann Series of French Texts.

BIART, LUCIEN. Monsieur Pinson. Edited by Otto Siepmann.

BOURGET, PAUL. Un Saint. Edited by Cloudesley Brereton.

CORNEILLE, PIERRE. Nicomède. Tragedie. Edited by G. H. Clarke.

DAUDET, ALPHONSE. Jack. Part I. Jack. Part II. Fuchet. Adapted and edited by Edward C. Goldberg, M.A.

DE BERNARD, CHARLES. L'Anneau d'Argent. Edited by Louis Sers.

LA BRUYÈRE, JEAN. Les Caractères ou les Mœurs de ce Siècle. Edited by E. Pellissuer.

LAMY, GEORGE. Voyage du Novice Jean Paul. Edited by D. Devaux.

MARIVAUX, PIERRE. Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard. Edited by E. Pallissier.

MOLIÈRE, JEAN. Les Femmes Savantes. Edited by Murray Peabody Brush.

MONTESQUIEU, (Baron). Lettres Persanes. Edited by E. Pellissier.

PASCAL, LA ROCHEFOUCAULD VAUVENARGUES. Pensées, Maximes et Réflexions. Edited by Alfred T. Baker.

PATRICE, VICTOR. Au Pôle en Ballon. Edited by P. Shaw Jeffrey.

SANDEAU, JULES. Sacs et Parchemins. Edited by E. Pellissier.

Its translations from the French include the "Plays of Edmond Rostand", translated by Henderson Daingerfield Norman; Pierre Loti's "Disenchanted", translated by Clara Bell; and Louis Hemon's "Maria Chapdelaine" and "My Fair Lady".

Miscellaneous Works.

Other works representing French religious, philosophic, or scientific thought are "The Sketch of the Life of Mother Marie de l'Agnus Dei", translated by Reverend Michael P. Hill; "Secrets of the Religious Life", translated by Reverend Oliver Dolphin; "Laughter", by Professor Henri Bergson; "Pierre Curie", by Marie Curie, translated by Charlotte and Vernon Kellogg; and "Modern French Legal Philosophy", by A. Fouillee, J. Charmont, L. Duguit, and R. Demogue.

THE NEW BUILDING OF THE MACMILLAN Co., PUBLISHERS

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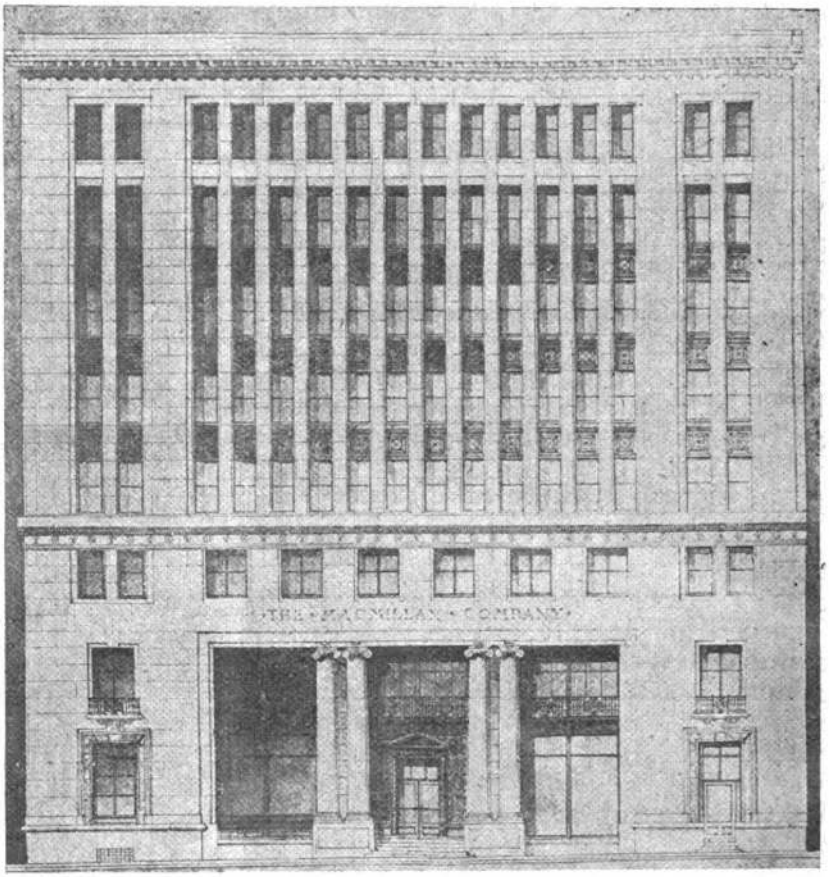

Courtesy of

THE PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY

"Richard Hakluyt", by Professor Foster Watson, is the latest of the series of Empire Builders, published by the Sheldon Press. The chapters on "The significance of Hakluyt's sea chronicles" and "Hakluyt as pioneer of British colonisation" are of special interest.

Edward Booth's "Tree of the Garden" is described by a writer in the *Boston Transcript* as the "big book" of Booth's life. His earlier books were "The Cliff End", published in the United States with the title "The Post Girl", and "The Doctor's Lass".

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The primary aim of **Ex Libris** *is to give its readers information in regard to the best American and English books of general interest. The primary aim of the American Library is to make these books available to its members throughout Europe.*

THE report of the American Library for February shows gifts of books amounting to 262. Among the donors were Mrs. Hilson, Mrs. Lauer, M. Thiebaut, Mrs. Walter Gay, Miss Wheelright, and Mr. Veit. The total number of subscribers registered was 459. This included the following new members: General Henry Lane, Rev. Robert Davis, Miss A. N. Dreer, and Mrs. A. Percival.

The book circulation for the month was 10,500, or thirteen per cent more than during the corresponding month last year.

British Institute of Florence

During the War two plans were put forward in Great Britain, one for the better distribution of British books abroad, the second, for the foundation of twelve British Institutes to form centres of British culture in the principal cities of Europe. Both of these plans were favorably accepted by the Ministry of Information and the Foreign Office, but with the end of the War interest in them declined, and of the Institutes planned, only one was established, that founded in Florence in 1918, maintained by the Government until 1921, and since then supported by private generosity.

At a meeting of the British Academy, February 25th, the need of additional funds for the Institute was discussed. Among the speakers was Sir Henry Newbolt, who in the course of his remarks declared that art, and especially literature, offered the most effective, and perhaps, the only sound path to international understanding and sympathy.

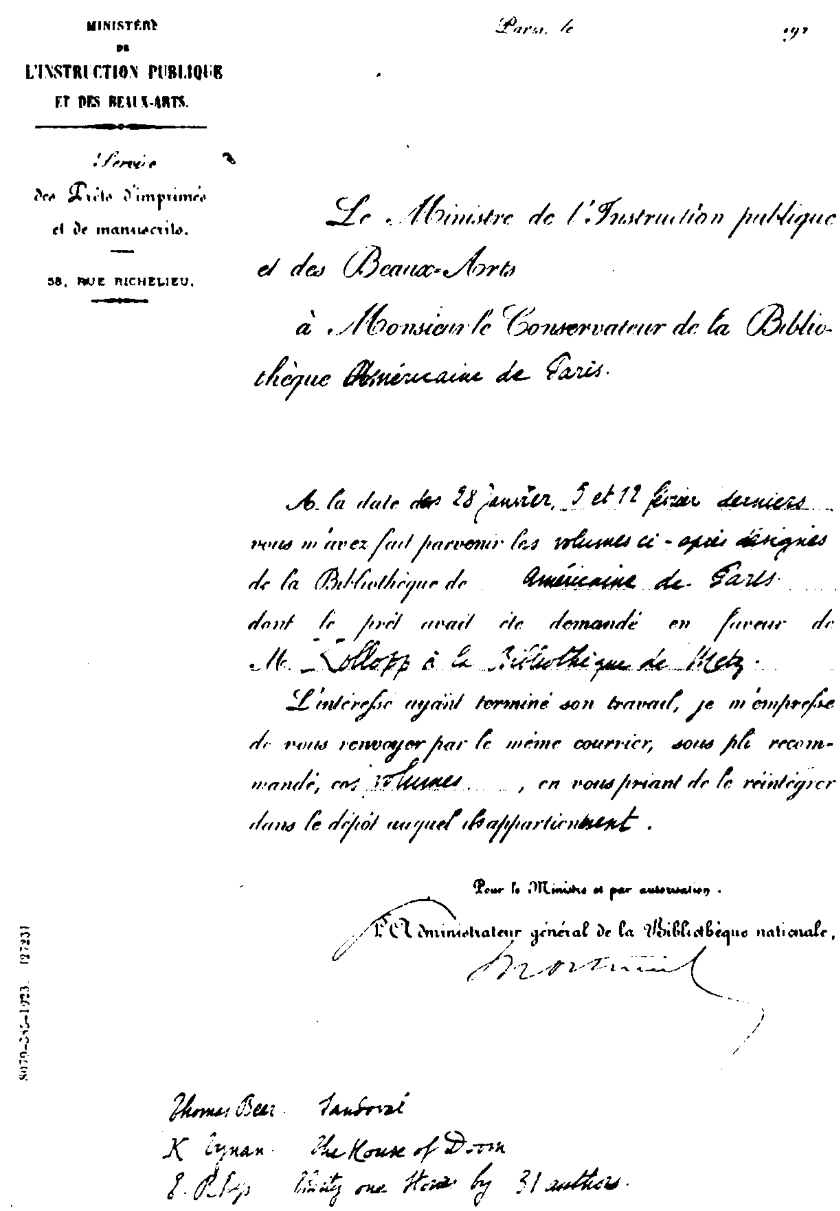
The importance of such institutes in establishing and maintaining international understanding can hardly be over-estimated. We cannot, therefore, but hope that the friends of the Institute in Florence will be so successful that they will be encouraged to carry out their wartime plans for Institutes in other European cities, and particularly their plans for an Institute in Paris.

FRENCH BOOK SELECTION.

With the object of facilitating in foreign countries the purchase of the best French books, the "Société Sekwana", 58 Blvd. Raspail, Paris, is making a monthly selection of fiction and non-fiction, through a committee composed of Henry Bordeaux, René Boylesve, Joseph Bedier, Henri Robert, of the Académie Française; Pol Neveux, of the Académie Goncourt; Fortunat Strowski, professor at the Sorbonne; Jacques Bainville, Pierre Luautey, Henri Massis, André Maurois, Paul Valery.

This committee chose the following books for the month of February: *Conflits intimes*, Paul Bourget; *Désert de l'amour*, François Mauriac; *Puits de Jacob*, Pierre Benoit; *Théâtre* (1918-1923), Lucien Dubrech; *Les Vainqueurs*, Georges Girard; *Barbarie et poésie*, Charles Maurras; *Explication de notre temps*, Lucien Rosnier; *Mouvement littéraire pendant l'Emigration*, F. Baldensperger; *Charettes*, Le Nôtre; *Hercule et Mademoiselle*, Pierre Best; *Le Bonheur des autres*, Marie Lénéru.

BOOK SERVICE TO FRENCH PROFESSORS



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à Monsieur le Conservateur de la Bibliothèque Américaine de Paris.

A la date des 28 janvier, 5 et 12 février derniers vous m'avez fait parvenir les volumes ci-après désignés de la Bibliothèque de Américaine de Paris dont le prêt avait été demandé en faveur de M. Lollopp à la Bibliothèque de Metz.

L'intéressé ayant terminé son travail, je m'empresse de vous renvoyer par le même courrier, sous pli recommandé, ces volumes, en vous priant de les réintégrer dans le dépôt auquel ils appartiennent.

Pour le Ministre et par autorisation.

L'Administrateur général de la Bibliothèque nationale,

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Facsimile of form used by the Bibliothèque Nationale in forwarding requests for books to the American Library in Paris.

The use of the books in the American Library in Paris was extended to professors in the Universities and to teachers in the Lycées by a resolution of the Trustees, November 6, 1923. In order to borrow these books applicants send their requests through a municipal or university library to the *Service des Prêts d'Imprimés* of the Bibliothèque Nationale, 58, rue de Richelieu, which transmits them to the American Library on the above form. Borrowers may secure directly from the Library information in regard to the books which it has by any author, or on any specific subject.

Book Reviews

THE VOYAGES OF JACQUES CARTIER, by H. P. Biggar. Ottawa. (Publications of the Public Archives of Canada, No. 11). F. A. Acland. 1924.

In 1911 Mr. Biggar edited an important series of documents in a publication issued by the Public Archives of Canada, entitled "The Precursors of Jacques Cartier". This work, covering the years 1497-1534, has been of great service to students of this early period of exploration in North America.

They will give the most hearty welcome to Mr. Biggar's latest production, which we are now privileged to review. It is a most exhaustive analytical work dealing with the three voyages made by the famous French explorer in the sixteenth century. Being an official publication of the Public Archives of Canada it may be accepted as the most authoritative exposition in the field of knowledge opened to the world by these pioneer voyages. The author has made a careful study of the various texts published in preceding centuries and has presented the results of his investigations in an extensive series of annotations of the greatest value to students. These contain many detailed facts taken from sources unknown to previous editors, and furnish abundant evidence of the throughness with which the author's researches have been conducted. The very abundant references to sources of information in various countries, e.g., manuscripts, books and pamphlets relative to exploration and geographical knowledge, are a mine of wealth for all future investigators.

The English text of the descriptions of the voyages establishes Mr. Biggar's reputation as a master of the French language. There are several appropriate illustrations and an interesting series of maps which indicate the successive advances in geographical knowledge in relation to Canada. Seven appendices are included, which coutain important collateral material.

The frontispiece is a well-known colored engraving from the work of M. de Clugny, "Costumes français depuis Clovis jusqu'à nos jours", Paris, 1836, which purports to be a portrait of Jacques Cartier. In view of the belief among many critics that this is merely an imaginative representation of the explorer, (and that no genuine claim can be established even for the painting at St. Malo), it would have been better if the author had omitted this illustration in a serious work, or at least, had added a note referring to the doubtful nature of the portrait.

J. Clarence Webster

FURNITURE OF THE PILGRIM CENTURY, by Wallace Nutting. Framingham, Mass. Old America Company. 1924. 716 pages.

The fascinating collection of colonial furniture handsomely reproduced in this enlarged edition of Mr. Nutting's former work consists of about fifteen hundred pieces both large and small, stately court cupboards and little Betty lamps, Plymouth chests and Pennsylvania heart forks, trundle beds and hasty pudding sticks, many from private collections not easily accessible to the public and scarcely two percent illustrated elsewhere. References to other works are not precise, but line drawings of turnings, large scale reproductions of hardware and careful descriptions make the book otherwise very thorough.

Each object is described as to its history, construction, material and size but with very little artistic criticism. To the author taste is so large a part of criticism that to indulge in it when speaking of individual pieces would be engaging in personalities. In speaking of groups he has no such scruples and draws some unexpected conclusions.

"It would not be difficult", he says, "to show that in the period between 1670 and 1700 Americans built better homes, from the standpoint of design, were better clad, and spoke better English than has been the case at any time since." The impression that the furniture of that period is crude is due to the inability of the present mechanical age to distinguish between mechanics and artisanship. However, the present fares better in the matter of color and it is the past which the writer seeks to excuse thus: "Our ancestors had so little color in their lives that they were somewhat lavish of it on their furniture' for the reds and greens of the old pieces were brilliant and not soft as has been supposed.

Nor were the old pieces so uncomfortable as they have been considered. In a heavy armchair with a slanting back, with a cushion or two and a stool at his feet, for floors were cold and the use of stools helped to keep away the chilblains, the Pilgrim Father was quite at his ease. His chair was a mark of dignity and authority. That of his wife, of the same design but lower and without arms, was called the "lady chair". The names of their owners give the chairs of Miles Standish, of Cotton Mather, and of Nathaniel Hawthorne a peculiar interest, because as the author confesses, "After all is said and done, the sentiment in relation to antique furniture is, to us, at least, a great part of its charm". It is this charm which pervades the book without compromising either its scholarly treatment or its artistic merit.

Jeannette Dyer Spencer

THE GERMANS IN THE MAKING OF AMERICA, by Frederick F. Schrader. Boston. The Stratford Co. 1924. 224 pages. (Knights of Columbus racial contribution series).

The author in his "Prussia and the United States: Frederick the Great's Influence on the American Revolution" made an important contribution to the history of relations between the two countries; in the present work he aims simply at an outline of the history of the Germans in North America. The more comprehensive book by Professor Albert B. Faust, entitled "The German Element in the United States", as he says, is still the most complete and satisfactory work on the subject.

The most interesting chapters in the book are those which relate to the period subsequent to 1840. In these he asserts that the Germans were a determining factor in the overthrow of the Democratic Party in 1860 and in the election of Abraham Lincoln, quotes Mrs. Jefferson Davis as saying that without the Germans the North could never have overcome the armies of the Confederacy, and to make the story complete, declares that Union bonds sold in Prussia to an amount aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars, while England and France opposed their sale in those countries.

The author also calls attention to the fact that the census of 1910 gave the percentage of Germans at 26.8 of the total white population, or one-fourth of the American people.

THE REVIVAL OF EUROPE: CAN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS HELP? by Horace G. Alexander. New York. Henry Holt & Co. 1924. 215 pages.

The purpose of this book, as stated in the introduction, is "to examine the machinery and activity of the League of Nations, to see where and why it has succeeded and where and why it has failed; secondly, to suggest... what are the true foundations of political morality". Only the last chapter, entitled "The International Spirit", is concerned with the latter phase as such.

It can not be said that the writer, an Englishman, adds much to the record of League activity presented by his fellow countrymen, Temperley ("Second Year of the League of Nations") and Williams ("The League of Nations"). He covers in detail the year 1922. As an account of the League to-day, the book is out of date. Some of its conclusions, nevertheless, are suggestive.

The writer strongly favors the admission of Germany to the League, whether or not she has fulfilled her international obligations under the Treaty of Versailles. In respect of such obligations she would certainly not be in a class by herself, especially in view of the Ruhr occupation, which he terms a "crowning international crime." To end one phase of her grievances and thus adopt "the only way to justice and peace" he proposes that the present administrative system for the Saar should be abolished and German sovereignty restored.

Separate and adequate discussion is given to the useful work of the League as concerns refugees, labor, the reconstruction of Austria and the World Court. An unexpected suggestion for future development is that the transfer of the seat of that body to Vienna would be a fitting completion to the work the League has done for that great city.

In the main the writer treats his subject without the usual prejudices shown by League protagonists or opponents. Truly however, he formulates an impossible condition for the future of the League when he states that "if the British people want peace, if they want the League of Nations to become a reality... they must be ready to give up Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, control of the Suez Canal, mandates in Central Africa and the Near East; Cyprus to Greece, Malta probably to Italy, Gibraltar perhaps to Spain, the African territories to German mandate, the Near East to independence, or all to whatever authority the League of Nations might designate". If this is the road to peace, the League can not help and mankind may as well prepare at once to read the obituary that will follow its self-effacement by modern warfare.

Walter Russell Batsell

THE COLLAPSE OF CENTRAL EUROPE, by Karl Frederich Nowak. Introduction by Viscount Haldane. Translated by P. Lochner and F.W. Dickes. London. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. 1924. 365 pages.

The period covered by this book begins with the peace of Brest-Litovsk in December 1917, and ends with the formation of the new states out of the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The military and moral elements leading to the collapse of Central Europe during this time are given in detail and with the understanding of a person who actually participated in the events related. Because of its essentially solid and even treatment of the subject, however, the book will appeal to and be read by few other than the professional historian.

W. R. B.

THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER MODERN DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS, by DeWitt C. Poole. New Haven. Published for the Institute of Politics by the Yale University Press. 1924. 208 pages.

This book is the product of a series of lectures delivered by its author at the Institute of Politics at Williamstown. It is divided into two parts:

(1) the organization and method in the conduct of foreign relations, and (2) democratic control of foreign relations.

In the first part the author reviews, somewhat cursorily and in a very elementary fashion, certain essential conditions of international intercourse, such as the sovereignty and independence of the state in its international affairs. Then follows a survey of the characteristics underlying foreign relations as found in the national organization of the European democracies and the United States and in international organization. The chapter on international organization adds nothing of value to the subject.

The second part of the book is concerned with the methods of diplomacy, secret and open, and more generally with the relation of public opinion to foreign relations. Mr. Poole here gives an entirely practical view of his subject as based upon experience. He recognizes, for example, that privacy of deliberation in diplomacy is necessary and that untimely publication is likely to be fatal to compromise and conciliation between states.

In general, the book represents the collection and interpretation from works already published of a few salient facts of international relations. It is of value principally because it covers in a popular manner a somewhat difficult subject and, being readable, will serve to further the cause of an enlightened public opinion concerning the conduct of foreign relations.

Walter Russell Batsell

RANDOM LETTERS FROM MANY COUNTRIES, by John Gardner Coolidge. Marshall Jones Co. Boston. 1924. 408 pages.

Few people, I fancy, have travelled in so many far-off parts of the world as Mr. Coolidge, and fewer have written so entertainingly, and with such irresistible wit, of their voyages.

The book begins on the sailing vessel, "A. G. Ropes", bound from New York to Japan—altogether four months at sea; and, thereafter, many lands are spoken of. Fascinating are the chapters on India and Java, and thrilling enough for any lover of adventure is the tale of a lonely jungle-walk across the Malay peninsula, accompanied only by native guides. Not too much to be trusted either, these Malays, so, as a precaution, they were made to precede him in single file. Yet, Mr. Coolidge principally attributes his safety to the fact that his guides thought he was expected at various villages *en route*, and that they would be called to account in case of his non-appearance. Even so, at times they were hostile enough to refuse him food.

For four years Mr. Coolidge was in South America; he was in Cuba during July 1898, and in Manila half a year later, from where he went to Samoa, Australia, and other places, landing finally in South Africa, where, at Pretoria, he was acting U.S. Vice-Consul during the first year of the Boer War.

Most entertaining are the four years in Peking as Secretary of Legation and Chargé d'Affaires, and not the least interesting is his visit to Port Arthur shortly after the Japanese bombardment. Diaz's Mexico is vividly written of during Mr. Coolidge's year there in diplomacy; and the final chapter deals with President Zelaya's Nicaragua, where he went in as full-fledged minister but swiftly came out a private citizen due to intolerable local conditions.

Marguerite Holm

ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR, by Bertha Ann Reuter. New York. Macmillan Co. 1924. 208 pages.

Because the compilers of general histories have usually considered America as a separate entity in international life, no clear understanding exists as to the real nature of American foreign relationships. Only in very recent years have historians begun to consider the American Revolution from an international point of view. Before long it is possible that some one will read a compilation of diplomatic correspondence like "Das Staatsarchiv" and discover that European countries really had an effect upon the Civil War of 1861-65.

Dr. Reuter, in her treatment of a hitherto little understood phase of history, has produced a work that has few of the foregoing faults. The sources of information investigated are many; official publications, the foreign and domestic press, and a wide range of memoirs, monographs and special articles. The result is a well summarized, reliable, and readable survey.

Beginning with a running sociological interpretation of the Anglo-American background in the period of dependence and independence the author develops the thesis in detail with the era of transition from 1890 to 1897. A common heritage, but above all common world problems, had brought about interdependence and co-operation between Great Britain and the United States. Then, as to-day, they had mutual interests, especially in the Pacific. In the Spanish-American war, for example, British policy distinctly favored America. In China the two countries strove for the same goal. From this backgroung developed an Anglo-American *rapprochement* that was delayed long by narrow nationalism but which was inevitable.

The facts connected with this development are synthetically and accurately set forward in this volume and constitute an invaluable record and means to international understanding.

Walter Russell Batsell

GIPSY FIRES IN AMERICA, by Irving Brown. New York. Harper & Bros. 1924. 244 pages.

The New World is the land of the restless. It has attracted immigrants from more lands than any other country. Is it strange, therefore, that it has also attracted the least settled element in those countries, the Gipsies? Such is the explanation given by Irving Brown for the presence of so many varied types of true Romanies in America.

Mr. Brown is an expert in Gipsy matters; he speaks the Gipsy language, (a point which he does not let you forget), has studied them for years, and has already published one or two books on the subject.

The majority of the Romanies at present in America are of recent arrival. Mr. Brown contends that most of those over 40 are foreign born. Some, however, came in Colonial days, deported from England; a large group also was sent from France to Biloxi, Mississippi.

The conditions of living are not very bright for them: fortune-telling is barred in many states, except, may be, phrenology, which is supposed to be scientific. The men who formerly traded horses have been compelled to become auto-dealers to earn their living. So it happens that a few tribes only are still wandering, mainly on the Pacific coast. The Romanies travel no more in the antique carts but either by train or automobile, and Mr. Brown cites the case of some 200 Hungarian Gipsies who have purchased a solid block in a Pennsylvania city, where they have lived for years.

The author has chosen the narrative form to recount the ways and customs of the Romanies he has seen. He tells with emotion how Marie, whose father was a tavern keeper in Rumania, was induced to keep one of the most interesting cafés of Greenwich village. He accurately reports the words of some Romani representing the true gipsy attitude toward marriage and divorce, and which are curious enough to be quoted here: "Man and wife is like the two wings of a bird. They don't need always to be together, 'cept when the bird's on the nest. But one's no good without the other."

I wish he had selected his stories more seriously, as some appear far from typical, or even interesting. On the other hand he omits to let us know what were the tribulations of certain of the wandering tribes during the World War, when Mexico and the United States deported them each time they crossed the border. But, after all, there are many good things in the book.

Pierre Denoyer

ADMIRAL DE GRASSE, by Canon Max Caron. Boston. Four Seas Co. 1924. 248 pages.

This little volume contains a popular biography of Admiral de Grasse, who with General Rochambeau was called upon to play a leading role in the campaign which ended in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va. It would appear that the author based his account only on secondary sources, and that he was not aware of the publication of "The Graves Papers" by the Naval History Society. In this connection, Admiral Chadwick's masterly analysis of the documents published in this volume should be carefully studied by all the historians of the American Revolution. This may account for many inaccuracies in the text.

Thus on page 95 we read that De Grasse's forces "were almost equal to those of the English"—as a matter of fact his twenty-four ships of the line carried 1794 guns, while the enemy's nineteen had only 1410. A few lines further it is stated: "After two hours' fighting, the English admirals gave their squadron the order to take the high sea. De Grasse could then go back to his anchoring-ground." The truth is that after the battle of September 5, 1781, the two fleets remained at sea for five days, more or less in sight, sometimes only from the masthead. Then only did Admiral de Grasse bethink himself of the necessity of regaining his anchorage inside the Virginia capes.

Robert W. Neeser

THE TRUE STORY OF WOODROW WILSON, by David Lawrence. New York. London. Hurst & Blackett. 1924. 368 pages.

To tell the truth about any true story is difficult, but to tell it about a story of Woodrow Wilson is more difficult still.

The author does not give in tangible form his own opinion of President Wilson, but, as becomes a distinguished representative of the *Associated Press*, allows the facts to speak for themselves or rather allows some of the facts to speak for themselves; for example, when he suggests that President Wilson's physical breakdown in September 1919 led to his rupture with Lansing and with Tumulty. This is a simple explanation, but is it a complete one? His rupture with Harvey, with McCombs, and with House, at any rate, cannot be explained in this way, nor the enmities inspired at Princeton.

Mr. Lawrence also allows others to speak for him, particularly Mr. Taft, from whose speech made during the 1920 presidential campaign long quotations are given which seem to represent the author's own views in regard to President Wilson.

Frits Holm

THE LIFE STORY OF AN UGLY DUCKLING, by Marie Dressler. Robert M. McBride & Co. New York. 1924. 234 pages.

On the whole, a somewhat uneven book is "The Life Story of an Ugly Duckling". It might roughly be divided into three parts,—the first, dealing with the author's early life and struggles, is the best. It is written in a light and amusing way and shows that she had plenty of courage and a sense of humor that never fails.

Even when job-hunting, with the care of her family on her shoulders, she compares herself—with her weary feet and fast-going shoes—to a bedraggled carrier-pigeon, whose wings had been clipped, and who *walked* home! The second part, during which "the ugly duckling floats into society", is not so amusing and is not free from a certain pathetic vanity. In the third part, notably in the final chapter, we are taken into the realm of purely theatrical matters, comparing the stage of today with that of twenty years and more ago, and here Miss Dressler again becomes interesting.

Marguerite Holm

A STORY-TELLER'S STORY, by Sherwood Anderson. New York. B. W. Huebsch. 1924. 442 pages.

> In a review of Ernest Hemingway's "In Our Time" (The Three Mountain Press) the *Dial* recently said: "Mr. Hemingway's poems are not particularly important, but his prose is of the first distinction. He must be counted as the only American writer but one — Mr. Sherwood Anderson—who has felt the genius of Gertrude Stein's 'Three Lives' and has been evidently influenced by it. Indeed Miss Stein, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hemingway may now be said to form a school by themselves." Two of these writers have consented to give *Ex Libris* their opinion in regard to the latest book written by the third.
>
> THE EDITOR.

The reviewers have all compared this book with the "Education of Henry Adams" and it was not hard for them to do so, for Sherwood Anderson twice refers to the Adams book and there is plenty in the "Story Teller's Story" about the cathedral at Chartres. Evidently the Education book made a deep impression on Sherwood for he quotes part of it. He also has a couple of other learned quotations in Latin and I can imagine him copying them on the typewriter verifying them carefully to get the spelling right. For Sherwood Anderson, unlike the English, does not quote you Latin in casual conversation.

As far as I know the Latin is correct although English reviewers may find flaws in it, and all of my friends own and speak of "The Education of Henry Adams" with such solemnity that I have been unable ever to read it. "A Story Teller's Story" is a good book. It is such a good book that it doesn't need to be coupled in the reviewing with Henry Adams or anybody else.

This is the Life and Times of Sherwood Anderson and a great part of it runs along in a mildly kidding way as though Sherwood were afraid people would think he took himself and his life too seriously. But there is no joking about the way he writes of horses and women and bartenders and Judge Turner and the elder Berners and the half allegorical figure of the poor devil of a magazine writer who comes in at the end of the book. And if Sherwood jokes about the base-ball player beating him up at the warehouse where he worked, you get at the same time, a very definite sharp picture of the baseball player, drunk, sullen and amazed, knocking him down as soon and as often as he got up while the two teamsters watched and wondered why this fellow named Anderson had picked a fight when he couldn't fight.

There are very beautiful places in the book, as good writing as Sherwood Anderson has done and that means considerably better than any other American writer has done. It is a great mystery and an even greater tribute to Sherwood that so many people writing today think he cannot write. They believe that he has very strange and sometimes beautiful ideas and visions and that he expresses them very clumsily and unsuccessfully. While in reality he often takes a very banal idea of things and presents it with such craftsmanship that the person reading believes it beautiful and does not see the craftsmanship at all. When he calls himself "a poor scribbler" don't believe him.

He is not a poor scribbler even though he calls himself that or worse, again and again. He is a very great writer and if he has, at times, in other books been unsuccessful, it has been for two reasons. His talent and his development of it has been toward the short story or tale and not toward that highly artificial form the novel. The second reason is that he has been what the French say of all honest politicians *mal entouré*.

In "A Story Teller's Story", which is highly successful as a piece of work because it is written in his own particular form, a series of short tales jointed up sometimes and sometimes quite disconnected, he pays homage to his New York friends who have helped him. They nearly all took something from him, and tried to give him various things in return that he needed as much as a boxer needs diamond studded teeth. And because he gave them all something he is, after the manner of all great men, very grateful to them. They called him a "phallic Chekov" and other meaningless things and watched for the sparkle of his diamond studded teeth and Sherwood got a little worried and uncertain and wrote a poor book called "Many Marriages". Then all the people who hated him because he was an American who could write and did write and had been given a prize and was starting to have some success jumped on him with loud cries that he never had written and never

would be able to write and if you didn't believe it read "Many Marriages". Now Sherwood has written a fine book and they are all busy comparing him to Henry Adams.

Anyway you ought to read "A Story Teller's Story". It is a wonderful comeback after "Many Marriages".

Ernest Hemingway

A Stitch in time saves nine. Birds of a feather flock together. Chickens come home to roost.

There are four men so far in American letters who have essential intelligence. They are Fenimore Cooper, William Dean Howells, Mark Twain and Sherwood Anderson. They do not reflect life or describe life or embroider life or photograph life, they express life and to express life takes essential intelligence. Whether to express life is the most interesting thing to do or the most important thing to do I do not know, but I do know that it is the most permanent thing to do.

Sherwood Anderson has been doing this thing from his beginning. The development of the quality of this doing has been one of steady development, steady development of his mind and character, steady development in the completion of this expression. The story-teller's story is like all long books uneven but there is no uncertainty in the fullness of its quality. In detail in the beginning and it does begin, in the beginning there is the complete expression of a game, the boys are and they feel they are and they have completely been and they completely are. I think no one can hesitate before the reality of the expression of the life of the Anderson boys. And then later, the living for and by clean linen and the being of the girl who has to have and to give what is needed is without any equal in quality in anything that has been done up to this time by any one writing to-day.

The story-teller's story is not a story of events or experiences it is a story of existence, and the fact that the story teller exists makes a story and keeps on making a story. The story-teller's story will live because the story-teller is alive. As he is alive and as his gift is the complete expression of that life it will continue to live.

Gertrude Stein

STRAWS AND PRAYERBOOKS, by James Branch Cabell, New York. Robert M. McBride & Co. 1924.

Mr. Cabell has written another polite book; or, if he insists, the same polite book. And he does insist. He insists that "Straws and Prayerbooks" is but the epilogue to the fifteen volume biography of which "Beyond Life" is the prelude in space if not in time, and of which "Jurgen" and the others are but chapters. This idea may appear startling to people unfamiliar with the ways of romanticists, but I find in it a good deal of reason. For there is something familiar in the accent, in the thought, in the cadence, in the manner of this volume. It is not a thing heard for the first time.

Here I touch upon Mr. Cabell's finest and most accentuated quality: his stability. He neither moves nor changes. He possesses the Godlike attribute of immutability. He does not offend us by sudden shifts of position, by new opinions or new attitudes. Even in his contradictions, he is changeless. That is excellent; it is soothing and gives confidence. One can always approach him with the assurance of finding there the same substance embalmed in the same elegant form. Perhaps I am being too enthusiastic; it is easy to be over enthusiastic about Mr. Cabell; but surely he deserves this eulogy.

In this new book Mr. Cabell retains in criticism and aesthetics the fine romantic genius which has made his novels and stories so celebrated in publishers' notices. Everything is here: the phantasy, the pleonistic urbanity, the rose-water disenchantment, the pleasant sentiment, the elaborately stylized drollery. In it, the most excellent talk is mixed with the most execrable logic. In it, there is talk of the artist's purpose, the artist's reward, of death and the universe, of Anatole France, George Moore, and Jehovah, of piety and common-sense. There is talk of Hergesheimer. Donn Byrne, classics, realists, glory, and the antique gods. Mr. Cabell has delved into all the books, all the theories, all the vagaries of six literatures. He has retraced in the course of a volume, the singular opinions of thirty centuries. He has mentioned "Gil Blas", Euripides, Petronius, and Paul Elmer More, Mr. Gilbert Seldes and the Ass of Apuleius. He has also made, it would seem, biological research. He has discovered a new, very bizarre, tho not very interesting animal called "the creating Romanticist". This pleasant creature which inhabits the vast and dim regions lying between Walter Scott and the fourth dimension, is especially remarkable for the "poignancy" of its soul, and for a curious habit of telling incredible lies about perfectly uninteresting subjects.

Now, whatever they may not be, I am convinced that all of the subjects in Mr. Cabell's books are respectable. They are the sort of thing one might hear of in a very mixed course of University lectures. And while I do not mean to imply that one can receive a "college education" in reading Mr. Cabell, I note that in the two processes one finds a good deal of similarity. With this compliment, I leave him.

Elizabeth S. Mann

PLUMES, by Laurence Stallings. New York. Brace & Co. 1924. 348 pages.

From the days of the Stuarts the Plume family had volunteered in every American army; those surviving went home to lick their wounds and to multiply their kind. No Plume ever gained so much as a Liberty Bond from any war, and no Mistress Plume a calico frock: to them "it was a question of how did it start, when is it starting, where does one enlist".

In the intervals between plastic surgery at Walter Reed Hospital, and while seeking food and lodging in Washington for his wife and baby, Lt. Richard Plume, A. E. F., *mutilé*, penniless, revolts from the best Plume traditions; wherein he is abetted by a fellow-sufferer and collea,ue more intelligent, if less well-bred, than himself, and later by a Jew more intelligent and less well-bred than either. Even before his pilgrimage to Arlington it is sus-suspected that Richard's revolt will be abortive, and that his son will be on the next American front.

The book is in the form of a novel, a fortunate circumstance permitting those who hold other creeds, ideals or balance-sheets to brand it as fiction. A good many myths, which have become facts by right of prescription only, are treated somewhat unkindly. But Mr. Stallings has shown as much restraint as his subject matter deserves. To possible readers whose consciences abhor oaths (in print) or whose curiosity demands a liberal trifling with other Mosaic commandments (in print) the book will prove disappointing.

The style is clear and most of the characters real. Richard's wife is not convincing, but she is living without her frame in another age. The descriptions could not have been written by a stranger to the scenes portrayed.

A number of readers who, for one reason or another, dislike books on the War, will at least hope to meet Richard again as Professor at Woodlawn College.

AT THE GATEWAYS OF THE DAY, by Padraic Colum. New Haven. Yale Univeristy Press. 1924. 217 pages.

Unlike that of most writers, Mr. Colum's greatest virtue is his stability. He *is* Mr. Colum. That is to say · he is Irish; he is a child; he is an artist. And he is always and immutably these things. Perhaps the first and the second, perhaps the second and the third, are tautological. That is a question too complex to solve within the limits of a review necessarily short. To be characteristically Irish when translating Hawaiian folk legends might appear to some people a drawback; yet the naiveté, the unconscious humor, the childlikeness of the Irish are qualities permeating any primitive literature. No better choice than Padraic Colum could have been made by the Hawaiian Legend and Folklore Commission for the work of putting these tales into a prose distinctive and appropriately literary. Being Irish myself, and even for other reasons, inordinately fond of anything in the Once-upon-a-time variety, I can claim no unbiased judgment on "Gateways of the Day". Under the circumstances, it is the better part if not of valor, certainly of criticism, simply to state as concisely as possible the nature and scope of the volume in question.

"At the Gateways of the Day" is the first of a series designed to make known the culture of the Hawaiian people —not of the melodramatic paraders of an O'Brien, nor yet of the warm solidities of a Gauguin—but of the people, wondering, always feeling, or thinking, or ingeniously inventing solutions for their wonderment. The book is primarily for children, yet the student of comparative mythology will also find it interesting: the story of the Deluge, for instance, the tracing of the Atlantean myth. There is, as might be expected, a love of nature, especially of birds and the sea, not so distinctly stressed in other legends. Like most very early folklore, it is too straightforward to be consistently poetic, yet there are touches of poetry, rare not only because occasional,—the conception of the birds, for instance, who, in the beginning of the world, "at the gateways of the day" so to speak, were not seen; but the flutter of their wings, the echo of their songs, were heard mysteriously among the branches, till men and women thought it music made delicately by hidden gods.

Elizabeth S. Mann

LA DAME DE SAINTE HERMINE, by Grace King. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1924. 296 pages.

In "La Dame de Sainte Hermine," Miss Grace King has perfectly lived up to her double reputation as Southern historian and Southern novelist. This book is, indeed, the best sort of novel, for it is founded upon complete knowledge of conditions; and the best sort of history, written with deep understanding of human facts. It is furthermore one of the Southern Colonial novels which none but a Southerner could write, for it consists of more than sentimental glamor. I have often wondered why our Northern friends should expect of Southern books to deal only with a dream-life which never more than half existed, reserved for lordly gentlemen and "beauteous" ladies, with never an ill-bred person about save for the inevitable ruffian to afford shadows and red spots for the tale; and then obvious high-lights for devoted negroes. The conscientious Southern writer, and

more particularly the pains-taking Southern historian, knows many other sides of Southern life, which bring depth and reality as well as a variety, every aspect of which is rooted in his heart.

Writing in this spirit—this truly Southern spirit—Miss King has not feared to face painful facts concerning the early days of Biloxi and New Orleans and Natchez, but she has touched upon them gently and lovingly, as always. The alternatives between toilet articles "de luxe" and actual lack of food or medicines stand for Colonial life described as it was. And the description of the tornado, in its directness of wording and vividness of detail, in its compelling grandeur and inherent wantonness of destruction, deserves to go on record among the remarkable storms in English literature. Perhaps only those who have gone through Southern storms will grasp its full significance; but no reader could fail to respond to its force.

As for the mysterious and charming Lady herself, whose existence is scarcely more than indicated in records of her day, Miss King has made of her a noteworthy and unforgettable heroine. But I think the author deserves special congratulations for the deftness shown in presenting this story on the strength of such documents as are now available concerning her. Nothing is more dangerous than the handling in fiction of a partly-known historic character about whom further discoveries may some day be made. By telling only such parts of the past life of "La Dame de Sainte Hermine" as Marie Alorge herself cared to relate, and in her own way too; and then such versions of these statements as M. de La Chaise cared to make known to Governor Bienville and to the Chevalier de Loubois, Miss King has at one and the same time fulfilled her duty as novelist and safeguarded her position as historian.

Warrington Dawson

CARGOES FOR CRUSOES, by Grant Overton. New York. D. Appleton & Co., Geo. H. Doran Co. Boston. Little Brown & Co. 1924. 416 pages.

In every well organized library and bookshop there will be found large volumes, published periodically, and labeled "Book Review Digest". They are of the greatest usefulness, but they are not of the kind one settles down with by the fireside for a comfortable, entertaining evening. Now, Grant Overton has written a really readable 1924 Book Review Digest all his own. Some of his reviews and opinions we differ with,—on Lytton Strachey, for example; about others, such as Aldous Huxley and André Maurois, we cry "Hear, Hear!" But in such a book as this, these things are unavoidable, and comment platitudinous.

The authors and their personalities are digested, as well as their books. From some points of view, this is a doubtful process, for books should be well or badly received according to their own merits, regardless of their makers' foibles. Still, the public dearly loves these foibles, and since books in general are for the public in general, one may perhaps reason with Lewis Carroll's Alice, "why not?" There is, of course, a pleasant sprinkling of anecdotes throughout the pages. "I think I shall write", announced the young Jeffery Farnol to his father. "You can't write", answered the parent, "you've not had a university education."

This book follows directly in the footsteps of Mr. Overton's 1923 production,—"American Nights' Entertainment". We hope he will continue the tradition.

M. R.

SOME ASPECTS OF MODERN POETRY, by Alfred Noyes. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924. 288 pages.

This is a book especially worth careful reading. Mr. Noyes assures us that the "time has come for plain speaking", and then gives vent to his opinions with no uncertain pen. Sometimes, we are led to wonder whether the author is as much concerned with the matter which his title gives us to understand is the subject of his book, as he is with a very virulent protest against criticism as it stands today. Mr. Noyes is somewhat annoyed with the critics, and it is more than possible that the latter may be prepared to respond in kind. However, the book does stir the muddied streams of present literary standards, though it may not tend to clear them to the satisfaction of all those who are intimately concerned. The younger generation of writers will draw a more hopeful outlook from "Some Aspects of Modern Poetry", since the blame for chaotic and pseudo-rebellious movements is shifted from their door, with an unhesitating gesture to that of the critics, whom Mr. Noyes designates as the true culprits.

Harriet S. Bailey

THE NEW SPOON RIVER, by Edgar Lee Masters. New York. Boni & Liveright. 1924. 368 pages.

Mr. Masters has one good point: he is able to see evil in everything. This makes him a consummate ironist, and irony, as everyone knows, is the prime attribute of a modern philosopher. He has another point which is good as far as it goes: he is able to see humanity in everything except capitalists and puritans. This is unfortunate, for even humanity *à rebours* must be recognized as humanity. In fact, Mr. Masters is exceedingly unfortunate. He was possibly primarily so in the immediate and well-deserved success of "Spoon River Antho-

logy". This caused him to produce voluminously, and his production shows the result of his New England conscience.

The first "Spoon River" was a distinctly startling piece of work, and one which is sure to retain a place in the history of American literature, if not in the appreciation of the more sensitive of its critics. It was one of the first sincere and necessary works of literary propaganda against our great American national vice: illusion, affectation, hypocrisy. (One chooses according to the stage of development of one's philosophy. Mr. Masters chooses the latter). There is no doubt that "Spoon River Anthology" contained genius. Its only intrinsic literary value as poetry however was that it gave one, in flashes, the idea that Mr. Masters had a future in prose. (He didn't, as we now know: "The Nuptial Flight", "Mirage", etc.). But the fact remains that one can not really know American literature without knowing Edgar Lee Masters.

The first "Spoon River" was at least original: it was a medium hitherto unemployed, certainly in America; a novel in condensed and rather heavily piquant form—the free verse epitaphs of the various inhabitants of a representative Middle Western town. "The New Spoon River" is simply a suburb of the old. It reproduces the virtues and the vices of its original, both mortal and literary. Its primary virtue, however, is that of having imitated a good thing, and this is, we know, a virtue which too few of our modern writers possess.

The volume is prefaced by the words of Anatole France: "The irony I invoke is no cruel deity, she mocks neither love nor beauty." It is unfortunate that this love which she does not mock, guided by Mr. Masters' somewhat sensual hand, she so definitely and adamantly limits; that, so occupied with the utility of destruction, she is unable to spare any time to a delineation of a beauty which, to do the author justice, we will say remains to him an alluring vagueness, while presented to us in a hackneyed haze of archaic ideals. No, this is no cruel deity, for she is bludgeoning, she deadens; unlike France's irony, she does not torture, pricking with small swords, their hilts delicately carven and bejeweled. "The New Spoon River" was conceived in definite prejudice, in the muggy glow of an opaque vision; it was born in banality; and it will go down to the grave in slender clippings for Miss Monroe's next anthology. I take pleasure in entering into Mr. Masters mortuary spirit, and here inscribing *Requiescat in pace.*

Elisabeth S. Mann

CRITICAL VENTURE IN MODERN FRENCH LITERATURE, by Arnold Whitridge. New York. Scribner. 1924. 187 pages.

Enthusiasm has a strong tendency to dull the edges of discrimination. And Mr. Whitridge stops just this side of the danger line. He brings a fine ardor to these *causeries* about nine choice French spirits, or let us say eight, for one still lives. But one is nevertheless aware of the alert, sharp vision of the critic. The essays on Stendhal, Sainte-Beuve and Anatole France, although charmingly discursive, might have been omitted, so much has already been said about these writers. Those dealing with stars of lesser magnitude, however, are a delightful contribution, humorous and human and sympathetic, not so short as to be merely sketches, yet not so long as to be exhaustive studies. Their subjects are Gerard de Nerval, Barbey d'Aurevilly, Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, Théodore de Banville, Marie Lénéru, and Sacha Guitry.

M. R.

"The Voyages of Jacques Cartier", edited by H. P. Biggar and published by the Public Archives of Canada, is described by the *American Historical Review* as the definitive text and translation of the narratives of Cartier's three voyages to America.

Of Henry Wickham Steed's "Through Thirty Years" (Heinemann) Professor Gooch says: "It would be difficult to exaggerate the interest, the importance, and the power of this remarkable work. Mr. Steed has for a generation been so closely associated with the makers of history that his narrative will take rank among original authorities; and on various occasions he has himself made history."

E. M. Forster's "A Passage to India" (Edward Arnold) is considered by Harry Hansen to give a better picture of political and social conditions in India than any recent document, memoir or apology.

Shane Leslie, writing in the *International Book Review* on Michael Arlen, whose "The Green Hat" (Collins) has become a best seller five weeks after publication, calls him an analytic impressionist, and perhaps the cleverest photographer of the "Young and Bright"—a cross between George Meredith and Scott Fitzgerald. Michael Arlen is an Armenian by birth, and his pen-name is said to have been selected from a London telephone directory.

New Books Added to the American Library

Any of the following books, excepting those which are starred, may be borrowed by members of the American Library in any part of Europe, and requests for them will be filled in the order in which they are received. They may be purchased from the booksellers who advertise in **Ex Libris**.

HISTORY, TRAVEL, POLITICS

ABBOTT, EDITH. Immigration; select documents and case records. Chicago. Univ. of Chicago Press. 1924.

CRAWFORD, MARY CAROLINE. Old Boston Days and Ways; from the dawn of the Revolution until the town became a city. Boston. Little Brown & Co. 1924.

DUBOIS, WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHARDT. The Gift of Black Folk; the negroes in the making of America. Boston. The Stratford Co. 1924.

GUEDALLA, PHILIP. Supers and Supermen. New York. Putnam. 1924.

HUDDLESTON, SISLEY. Those Europeans; studies of foreign faces. New York. Putnam. 1924.

Inauguration du Monument Elevé aux Volontaires Américains Tombés au Champ d'Honneur. Paris. Ecole Estienne. 1924.

LOUIS XIV, KING OF FRANCE. A King's lessons in Statecraft; Louis XIV's letters to his heirs, with introduction and notes by Jean Longnon. London. Fisher Unwin. 1924.

MILTOUN, FRANCIS (pseud. of MANSFIELD, MILBURG FRANCISCO. The Spell of Algeria and Tunisia. Boston. L. C. Page. 1924.

SLOANE, WILLIAM MILLIGAN. Greater France in Africa. New York. Scribner. 1924.

WEATHERFORD, W. D. The Negro from Africa to America. New York. Doran. 1924.

BIOGRAPHY

ALLEN, HENRY T. My Rhineland Journal. Boston. Houghton, Mifflin Co. 1923.

CRONWRIGHT-SCHREINER, S.C. The Letters of Olive Schreiner. London. Unwin. 1924.

DRESSLER, MARIE. The Life Story of an Ugly Duckling; an autobiographical fragment in seven parts. New York. McBride. 1924.

FITZGERLAND, EDWARD. Some New Letters of Edward Fitzgerald, ed. by F. R. Barton. London. Williams & Norgate. 1923.

GREVILLE, CHARLES. The Letters of Charles Greville and Henry Reeve. 1836-1865. Edited by A. H. Johnson. London. T. Fisher Unwin. 1924.

HAMILTON, Mrs. MARY AGNES (ADAMSON). J. Ramsay Macdonald, the Man of To-Morrow, by Iconoclast (pseud.). New York. Thomas Seltzer. 1924.

HEATON, JOHN L. Cobb of the *World*, A Leader in Liberalism. New York. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1924.

HOWE, M. A. DEWOLFE. Barrett Wendell and His Letters. Boston. Atlantic Monthly Press. 1924

HUEFFER, FORD MADOX. Joseph Conrad. A Personal Remembrance. London. Duckworth & Co. 1924.

LANGENSKJOLD, GRATA. Baron Paul Nicolay: Christian Statesman and Student Leader in Northern and Slavic Europe. New York. Geo. H. Doran Co. 1924.

LAWRENCE, DAVID. True Story of Woodrow Wilson. London. Hurst & Blackett. 1924.

MITCHELL, EDWARD P. Memoirs of an Editor; fifty years of American journalism. New York. Scribner. 1924.

MORGAN, JOHN H. John, Viscount Morley. An Appreciation and Some Reminiscences. London. John Murray. 1924.

MOSES, MONTROSE J. and GERSON. VIRGINIA. Clyde Fitch and his Letters. Boston. Little, Brown & Co. 1924.

MUKERJI, DHAN GOPAL. My Brother's Face. New York. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1924.

NICOLSON, HAROLD. Byron (The Last Journey, April 1824). London. Archibald Constable & Co. 1924.

PALEOLOGUE, MAURICE. Ambassador's Memoirs. London. Hutchinson. 1923. 2 vols.

PORRITT, ARTHUR. John Henry Jowett. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

RITCHIE, ANNE THACKERAY. Letters. London. John Murray. 1924.

ROBERTS, MORLEY. W. H. Hudson. London. Eveleigh Nash & Grayson. 1924.

ROBERTSON, J. M. Ernest Renan. London. Watts & Co. 1924. (Life Stories of Famous Men).

ROOSEVELT, THEODORE. Letters from Theodore Roosevelt to Anna Roosevelt Cowles 1870-1918. New York. Scribner. 1924.

ROSS, RONALD. Memoirs with a Full Account of the Great Malaria Problem and Its Solution. London. John Murray. 1923.

SOMERVILLE, E. OE, and ROSS, MARTIN. Wheel-Tracks. New York. Longmans, Green & Co. 1923.

SPRING, HENRY POWELL. Chateaubriand at the Crossways. New York. Columbia Univ. Press. 1924.

STEUART, J. A. Robert Louis Stevenson, Man and Writer. London. Low, Sampson, Marston & Co. 1924.

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS. His Work and His Personality by Sidney Colvin, Edmund Gosse, and others. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

STRACHEY, JOHN ST. LOE. River of Life. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

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EATON, WALTER RICHARD. Actor's Heritage; scenes from the theatre of yesterday and the day before. Boston. Atlantic Monthly Press. 1924.

GOULD, GERALD. English Novel of Today. London. John Castle. 1924.

MACHEN, ARTHUR. Hieroglyphics, a Note Upon Ecstasy in Literature. New York. Alfred A. Knopf. 1923.

MARQUIS, DON. The Old Soak's History of the World. Garden City. Doubleday Page & Co. 1924.

MASTERS, EDGAR LEE. New Spoon River. New York. Boni & Liveright. 1924.

McGOVERN, JANET B. MONTGOMERY. The Butterflies of Taiwan. Cambridge. W. Heffer & Sons. 1924.

MIDDLETON, GEORGE and BOLTON, GUY. Polly with a Past, and Adam and Eve. New York. Henry Holt & Co. 1923.

MURRY, JOHN MIDDLETON. Discoveries,—Essays in Literary Criticism. London. Wm. Collins & Sons. 1924.

NOYES, ALFRED. Some Aspects of Modern Poetry. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

OVERTON, GRANT. Cargoes for Crusoes. New York. D. Appleton Co. 1924.

PEPPER, GEORGE WHARTON. Men and Issues; a selection of speeches and articles. New York. Duffield & Co. 1924.

PIRANDELLO, LUIGI. Three Plays: Right You Are (If You Think So). Six Characters in Search of an Author. "Henry IV", London.

REESE, LIZETTE WOODWORTH. Wild Cherry. Baltimore. Norman Remington Co. 1923.

ROLLINS, HYDER E. Cavalier and Puritan. Ballads and Broadsides, Illustrating the Period of the Great Rebellion 1640-1660. New York. New York Univ. Press. 1923.
J. M. Dent & Sons. 1923.

SHAW, BERNARD. Saint Joan: A Chronicle Play in Six Scenes and an Epilogue. New York. Brentano. 1924.

SUTCLIFF, EMERSON GRANT. Emerson's Theories of Literary Expressions. Urbana, Ill. Univ. of Illinois. 1923.

WARD, ALFRED C. Aspects of the Modern Short Story; English and American. London. Univ. of London Press. 1924.

YVON, PAUL. Horace Walpole as a Poet. Paris. Presses Universitaires de France. 1924.

MISCELLANEOUS

ADDISON, JULIA DE WOLF. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Boston. L. C. Page and Co. 1924.

BROCKHOUS, ALBERT. Netsukes. New York. Duffield & Co. 1924.

CAPRON, F. HUGH. The Anatomy of Truth. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1923.

COHEN, GEORGE. The Jews in the Making of America. Boston. Stratford Co. 1924.

EFROS, ISRAEL. Philosophical Terms in the Moreh Nebukim. New York. Columbia Univ. Press. 1924.

LHEVINNE, JOSEF. Basic Principles in Pianoforte Playing. Philadelphia. Presser Co. 1924.

VAN DYKE, JOHN CHARLES. Rome: Critical Notes on the Borghese Gallery, the Vatican Gallery, the Stanze and Loggie, the Borgia Apartments. New York. Chas. Scribner's Sons. 1924.

FICTION

BOYD, THOMAS. Dark Cloud. New York. Scribner. 1924.

CHAMBERLAIN, GEORGE AGNEW. Lantern on the Plow. New York. Harper & Bros. 1924.

FAUSET, JESSIE REDMON. There is Confusion. New York. Boni & Liveright. 1924.

GEORGE, W. L. Triumph of Gallio. London. Chapman & Hall. 1924.

HUEFFER, FORD MADOX. Some Do Not. London. Duckworth & Co. 1924.

NOYES, ALFRED. Hidden Player. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

SHERMAN, STUART P. My Dear Cornelia. Boston. Atlantic Monthly Press. 1924.

SQUIRE, J. C. The Grub Street Nights Entertainments. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1924.

WALLER, MARY E. Deep in the Hearts of Men. Boston. Little Brown & Co. 1924.

WODEHOUSE, P. G. Psmith in the City. London. Black Ltd. 1924.

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ALLARD, LOUIS. Comédie de mœurs en France au XIX^e siècle. Tome I. De Picard à Scribe. Cambridge. Imp. de l'Université d'Harvard. 1923.

BATCHELLER, TRYPHOSA BATES. Une amitié historique (France-Amérique). Préface de Gabriel Hanotaux. Paris. Plon. 1924.

BIBESCO, PRINCESSE. Le perroquet vert. Paris. Grasset. 1924.

BORDEAUX, HENRY. Portraits d'hommes. Paris. Plon. 1924.

DU BLED, VICTOR. La Société française depuis cent ans. Quelques salons du Second Empire. Paris. Bloud & Gay. 1923.

BUNAU-VARILLA, PHILIPPE. Mécanisme du succès dans les affaires. Paris. Ravisse. 1924.

CASTELLANE, BONI DE. Comment j'ai découvert l'Amérique : Mémoires. Paris. Cres. 1924.

CHARPENTIER, JOHN. Théodore de Banville, l'homme et son œuvre. Paris. Perrin. 1925.

COLETTE. Le blé en herbe. Paris. Flammarion. 1923.

— — Les vrilles de la vigne. Paris. Ferenczi. 1923.

DELPLANQUE, ALBERT et DIMNET, ERNEST. Latine de Romanis. Paris. De Gigord. 1924.

DES NOETTES, LEFEBVRE. La force motrice animale à travers les âges. Paris. Berger-Levrault. 1924.

ESTAUNIE, EDOUARD. Le labyrinthe. Paris. Perrin. 1924.

FAYARD, JEAN. Oxford et Margaret. Paris. Fayard. 1924.

FOURNIER, ALAIN. Miracles ; avec une introduction de Jacques Rivière. Paris. Nouvelle Revue Française. 1924.

GALZY, JEANNE. La femme chez les garçons. Paris. Rieder. 1924.

GEFFROY, GUSTAVE. Les Gobelins. Paris. Nilsson. 1924.

GONTARD, JEAN. Dans les Sierras de Californie. Paris. Pierre Roger & Cie. 1923.

HAMP, PIERRE. Le Lin. Paris. Nouvelle Revue Française. 1924.

HENRY-BORDEAUX, PAULE. Circé du Désert. Paris. Plon. 1924.

JOHANNET, RENÉ. Eloge du bourgeois français. Paris. Grasset. 1924.

LEGOUIS, EMILE-HYACINTHE et CAZAMIAN, L. Histoire de la littérature anglaise. Paris. Hachette. 1924.

LEPAULLE, PIERRE. De la condition des sociétés étrangères aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique. Paris. Rousseau. 1923.

LOMBROSO, GINA. La femme aux prises avec la vie. Paris. Payot. 1924.

MARTELLIÈRE, JEAN. Pierre de Ronsard. Paris. Lemerre. 1924.

NOLHAC, PIERRE DE. Le Trianon de Marie-Antoinette. Paris. Calman Lévy. 1924.

PERNOT, MAURICE. La question turque. Paris. Grasset. 1923.

RIOU, GASTON. Ellen et Jean. Paris. Grasset. 1923.

SAINT-PRIX, JEAN DE. Lettres, 1917-1919. Paris. Rieder. 1924.

SCHOELL, FRANK L. La femme française. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1924.

SELLS, ARTHUR LYTTON. Les sources françaises de Goldsmith. Paris. Edouard Champion. 1924.

There is an interesting column on Napoleon Collections in the *Times Literary Supplement*, December 18. .

"Of all living authors, Zane Grey is the most successful in his appeal to men", the *Bookman* says.

"If I wish to call up a vision of modern America", says the writer of the London Letter in the *Transatlantic Review*, "I read the plays of Mr. Eugene O'Neill ; Mr. O'Neill tells the Englishman more about America, without having the slightest intention of doing so, than all the professors, and all the journalists. He does not bombard us with facts but he assaults and captures the citadel of our imagination."

"No finer blank verse has been produced since Milton than that of Robinson and Frost", Theodore Maynard says in his recently published book on "Our Best Poets" (Brentano's). "Only one contemporary Englishman, Lascelles Abercrombie, equals them in this respect", he adds.

In a review of Corra Harris's "My Book and Heart" (Houghton) in the *International Book* Review, Hamilton Holt says, "Men have written great self-revealing autobiographies that bear irrefutable international evidence of depicting themselves exactly as they believed themselves to be... Benvenuto Cellini, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Herbert Spencer and our own Benjamin Franklin rise instantly to mind as conspicuous examples of those who have laid bare to the world the inmost tablets of their hearts and minds. I know of only two living Americans who seem to me to have the courage, candor and literary ability—the three essentials for supreme autobiography writing—to emulate these four immortals. One is E. W. Howe, Kansas author and sage, easily in my judgment the most interesting living American editor. The other is Corra Harris. Whether 'Ed' Howe will ever attempt to write his life I can not say. He is a man, and at best could do only what other men have done. But Mrs. Harris is a woman. As no other woman I know, she can if she will explain the mystery of womanhood. Well, has she done it?"

Literary Notes

The second volume of Professor David S. Muzzey's "The United States of America" (Ginn & Co.) covers the period from the Civil War to date. The bibliography not only describes the literature of each subject discussed but suggests topics for research.

In an article on the writings of W. B. Maxwell in *The Bookman* for January, Grant Overton describes "The Devil's Garden" as the finest thing he has written and his most widely known work on both sides of the Ocean.

In speaking of "The Life and Letters of Emily Dickinson" (Houghton), Gamaliel Bradford describes Miss Dickinson as one of the most original poets and especially one of the subtlest, most suggestive, most startling letter-writers that this country has produced.

In "Le Conte de Lisle, a Study of the Man and His Poetry" (Columbia University Press), Dr. Irving Brown describes the leader of the Parnassians as the most perfect poet that France has produced, and perhaps, the most perfect of all poets of the 19th century. This is the first book in English devoted to the study of his life and writings and its usefulness as an introduction to the subject is increased by the large number of selected poems and translations reprinted in it.

"The Yellowstone Nature Book" by M. P. Skinner of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station (McClurg), begins with a description of the geology of Yellowstone Park and its flora and fauna, and concludes with chapters, of interest to the tourist, on the Park in summertime, and on the history of its discovery and development.

The "List of Books for Girls", by Miss Effie L. Power, recently published by the American Library Association, includes the following French stories: Pierre Loti, "An Iceland Fisherman"; Jeanne Schulz, "The Story of Colette"; F. R. Stockton, "The Story of Viteau"; and Charlotte M. Yonge, "The Chaplet of Pearls", "The Dove in the Eagle's Nest", and "The Prince and the Page".

In his biographical study of Ernest Renan just published by Watts & Co., J. M. Robertson, the historian of free thought, traces the life and work of Renan with more brevity and with greater impartiality than most of his other biographers. At the same time he does not lack enthusiasm, for: "In the latter part of the 19th century", he says, "probably the largest audience won by a living French author was that of Joseph Ernest Renan."

The first volume of "La comédie de mœurs en France au dix-neuvième siècle" by Louis Allard, Professor of French literature in Harvard University (Harvard University Press) relates to the period from Picard to Scribe (1795-1815). Its chief interest to the general reader lies in the light which it throws on the Revolutionary and Napoleonic epochs.

Gilbert Chesterton's "Ballad of the White Horse" is described by Theodore Maynard in his recently published book on "Our Best Poets" as not only his crowning achievement but as incomparably the greatest poetic work of this century.

In a recent letter from London to the *New York Times Book Review*, Herbert W. Horwill says that a generation ago twenty-five per cent of the reading in English homes was in American books, that nowadays the output of American authors has nothing like so great a vogue on this side of the Atlantic. "There is no modern poet," he says, "whose name is such a household word in England as Longfellow's was a generation or two ago. There is none who has gained even so large an English constituency as did Lowell or Whittier. When grandmothers of today were young girls, the characters in "Little Women" and "The Wide Wide World" were as familiar to them as any in homegrown fiction. Similarly Mark Twain and Bret Harte achieved a reputation in England that no later American writer has equalled."

May Sinclair's "Arnold Waterlow" (Macmillan) is described as her greatest artistic success, and as the best English novel of the past year.

The poems in Edgar Lee Master's "New Spoon River" (Boni & Liveright) are just as clever and quite as beautiful as those in the "Spoon River Anthology", John Farrar says, "In fact, the book as a whole is more even."

FRENCH COLLECTIONS IN AMERICA

Professor Gerig of Columbia University has recently called attention to the rich collections of French history and literature in the libraries of the United States. Among these he mentions the collections of pamphlets relating to the French Revolution and the Republic of 1848 in the Virginia State Library, the unedited Beaumarchais letters in the University of Michigan, the extensive collection of French drama of the Lintilhac Library purchased by Stanford University, and the Storel collection of books, pamphlets, etc., on French literature of the 16th century purchased by Dartmouth College.

Current Magazines

Any of the following magazines may be borrowed by members of the American Library in any part of Europe, after the expiration of one month, and requests for them will be filled it the order in which they are received They may be purchased from the booksellers who advertise in **Ex Libris.**

AMERICAN

The American Journal of International Law, January. The Third Year of the Permanent Court of International Justice, Manley O. Hudson. The Meaning of Pan-Americanism, Joseph B. Lockey.

The American Journal of Sociology, January. The Ku Klux Klan Interpreted, Frank Bohn.

American Political Science Review, February. Limitations on National Sovereignty in International Relations, James W. Garner. Ibsen's Political and Social Ideas, Philip G. Neserius. Scientific Research and State Government, Leonard D. White.

American Review, January-February. H. L. Mencken: An Appreciation, H. M. Parshley.

Atlantic Monthly, February. A Journalist Sees Lincoln, William O. Stoddard. Religion in the Future, Reverend W. R. Inge. New Standards in Art and Literature, A. R. Orage.

Current History, February. Trotsky's Attack on the Soviet Rulers, Elias Tobenkin. The Conflict Between East and West in Canada, Frank Bohn. Armenian Reds Curbed by American Philanthropy, H. C. Jacquith.

Dial, February. Michael Field, Logan Pearsall Smith.

Harper's Magazine, February. Can Labor Rule? A. G. Gardiner. The Alienist in Court, Joseph Collins, M.D.

Journal of Political Economy, February. English War Statistics of Pauperism, Edith Abbott. Labor's Attempt to Govern Britain, William Thomas Morgan.

Library Journal, January. Books in Immigrant Languages, Eleanor E. Led better.

Literary Digest, January 31. Canada's Literary Status. A New "Intellectual Brotherhood".

— — February 7. The Turmoil over the French Debt.

— — February 21. As Boston Sees Amy Lowell.

— — February 28. Republicans and Monarchists in Germany.

Literary Digest International Book Review, February. Rivalry of the States in Who's Who, Carl C. Brigham. Eugene Field, Poet and Colyumist, Edwin L. Shuman. Smiling Memorie, of Mrs. Burnett, Elizabeth Elliot.

Living Age, January 24. The Psychology of G.B.S., William Archer.

— — February 7. Thomas Hardy's Birthplace, F. J. Harvey Darton.

Nation, February 11. Brains and the Immigrant, Melville J. Herskovits. Artist Life in the United States, Mary Austin.

Scribner's Magazine, February. The Suicide of Russia, Ellsworth Huntingdon. In the Realm of King Log, Albert Guerard. Memories of some Parisians, H. C. Chatfield-Taylor.

World's Work, February. Tragic Europe—The Realities of French Life, Sir Philip Gibbs. The Lasting Accomplishments of Four Years, Mark Sullivan.

BRITISH

The Conservative Review, February. Petroleum and the Pacific, Robert Machray. The Trade Union Political Levy, Gordon C. Touche, M.S.

Contemporary Review, March. The Horizon in Germany, "Onlooker". The League and the Saar, Sir Robert Donald. The Struggle for Power in Belgium, Thomas Greenwood. The Decadence in the Performance of Civic Duty, F. W. Soutter.

English Review, February. Was Tolstoy the Spiritual Father of Bolchevism? Prof. Sarolea. Rejuvenation—Reply to Dr. Voronoff, Dr. L. C. Dundas Irvine. Spain under the Somaten, Lt.-Col. J. A. Wullie.

Fortnightly Review, March. Our Relations with Russia, Hugh F. Spender. The United States in Europe, J. D. Whelpley. The Economic Development of Yugo-Slavia, Dudley Heathcote.

Nation and Athenaeum, February 14. France and the Vatican. A Baltic League?

The Near East, February 26. Yugo-Slavia: Survey of the Economic and Financial Year.

The Round Table, March. Europe, the Covenant and the Protocol. The President, the Secretary of State and Senator Borah.

FRENCH

Aesculape, Février: Le Masque Facial dans l'Effort, Dr. R. Tait Mackenzie. Une Mission Médicale au Canada Français, Dr. E. Sergent.

Le Correspondant, 25 Février : M. Frank Kellog, Secrétaire d'Etat, et la Nouvelle Orientation de la Politique Américaine, Georges LeChartier. Un Salon Anglais à Paris, Lady Hollond et ses Amis, A. Augustin-Thierry.

Education Physique, 15 Février : Le Sport dans sa Conception vraie ou éducative, et le Sport dévié ou dévoyé, George Hébert.

Europe, 15 Février : Henri Franck, André Spire. Un an de dictature (traduit de l'espagnol), George Pillement.

L'Europe Nouvelle, 7 Février : La Retraite de Trotsky, Roger Lévy.

— — 14 Février : L'Angleterre propose un Arrangement Financier à la France, G. Glasgow. Les Scandales de Berlin, C. Loutre.

— — 21 Février : Quelques Souvenirs de M. Osusky sur la Fondation de la République Tchécoslovaque et le Rôle du Président Wilson.

— — 28 Février : La Rentrée de M. Caillaux ou "l'Atout du Silence'. Un pamphlet politique : les mémoires de Libussa. la jument favorite de Guillaume II.

Revue Européenne, 1er Février : George Bernard Shaw, G. K. Chesterton.

La Grande Revue, Janvier : Enquête sur la Condition et les Aspirations des Jeunes Filles d'aujourd'hui, Gonzague Truc, La Femme et le Sentiment de l'Amour chez un Romancier Catholique, M. François Mauriac, Suzanna Normand.

Revue Hebdomadaire, 7 Février : Voltaire en Angleterre, André Bellessort.

— — 14 Février : Le Théâtre de Voltaire, André Bellessort. Un artiste inconnu, Alphonse Métérié.

— — 21 Février : La France et le Vatican, Charles Benoist.

— — 28 Février : Ce qu'un historien peut apprendre à la Chambre, Louis Madelin. Voltaire chez le Roi de Prusse, André Bellessort.

Mercure de France, 1er Février : La Vie et l'Œuvre de Carl Spitteler, H. de Ziegler. Après la Reconnaissance des Soviets, Victor G. Cadere.

— — 15 Février : Les relations de J. J. Rousseau et de Laclos. A propos de quelques lettres inédites, Paul Dimoff. Les miracles de la suggestion, Marcel Boll. L'acteur Mondory et les origines du Marais, Georges Mongrédien.

Revue Mondiale, 15 Février : Le début littéraire de Pierre Loti, Emile Ripert. La vie littéraire, Nicolas Ségur.

Le Monde Nouveau, 15 Février : Natalie Clifford Barney, Aurel. Eve, Katharine Howard.

Nouvelle Revue Française, 1 Février : Réflexions sur la littérature, Albert Thibaudet.

Revue de Paris, 15 Février : Ronsard et la musique, Constantin Photiades. L'agonie du Français en Louisiane, Frank L. Schoell.

Revue Universelle, 1 Février : Réflexions sur la critique et sur l'action, Charles Maurras.

— — 15 Février : M. Edouard Herriot ou l'homme d'Etat tel qu'il ne doit pas être, Charles Benoist.

La Vie des Peuples, Février : Un critique allemand : Ernest Robert Curtius, C. Senevhal. En cas de guerre le Japon attaquerait-il l'Angleterre ou l'Amérique, Lucien Bec. Le mouvement littéraire en Albanie, Jacques Boucart.

In an article on Mary Roberts Rinehart in *The Bookman* for February, Arnold Patrick describes her latest story, "The Red Lamp", as by far the best of her mystery tales.

"Of Herbert Quick's three interlocked stories of the Old Midwest the editor of *The Bookman* says, "'Vandermark's Folly' remains for me the most glamorous. Yet each is good, 'The Invisible Woman', being a shade better reading than 'The Hawkeye'."

Miss G. B. Stern's "Tents of Israel" has been published in New York with the title "The Matriarch". Miss Stern is considered one of the best of the younger writers of England.

In a recent newspaper vote in Australia on the best books for children, "Alice in Wonderland" headed the list, followed by "Seven Little Australians", "Robinson Crusoe", and "Little Women".

A writer in the *Spectator*, in speaking of the writings of George Meredith, places "Sandra Belloni" above all his other novels.

"National Education in the United States of America", written in 1800 by du Pont de Nemours at the request of Thomas Jefferson, has been translated into English for the first time by Mr. B. G. du Pont, and published by the University of Delaware Press. His scheme of Education included provision for the establishment of a National University in Washington, a university of such a character that it would eventually become the ambition of every learned man in the world to become a member of one of its faculties. "Washington", he says, "will become the Bakhara, the Benares, the Byblas, the Cariath-Sepher, the city of knowledge. Men of the highest reputation will be assembled there as professors; perhaps Europeans will not be considered properly educated unless they have studied in its schools."